About these publications	Description
Publication title	Migration Statistics (various tables)
Description	These statistics provide more detail on the migration component of population change for Scotland, council and NHS Board areas, as calculated for the mid-year population estimates. The migration estimates are broken down by age, sex, origin and destination under four broad categories: • total migration to or from Scotland, • migration within Scotland, • migration between Scotland and the rest of the UK, • migration between Scotland and overseas.
Theme	Population and Migration
Topic	Migration
Format	Excel workbooks, comma separated value (csv) files
Data source(s)	International migration from Long Term International Migration (LTIM), data on refugees and data on asylum seekers are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Overseas migration was previously estimated using the International Passenger Survey (IPS) as the main source of data for measuring LTIM at Scotland level. However, in March 2020 the IPS was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ONS led research into alternative data sources including using statistical modelling to estimate UK international migration over this period. Migration within the UK and distribution of international migrants within Scotland is based on the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) and the Community Health Index (CHI).
Date that data is acquired	Continuously
Publication release date	25 June 2021
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	The migration estimates relate to mid-year (1 July to 30 June) moves.
Continuity of data	In 2009, fundamental changes were introduced to the IPS sample design to make the survey more focused on identifying migrants. These changes included a re-organisation of the times and frequency of sampling travellers. As a result of these methodological changes, the LTIM back series was revised. A new method for allocating international out migration was implemented for mid-2012 data.

	Migration estimates for 2002 to 2011 were revised in February 2014 to take account of information from the 2011 Census. These revisions took into account the methodological changes introduced in mid-2012 data. New NHS Board areas came into force in April 2014. These new NHS Board areas have been used for 2011/12 data onwards, with the pre-2006 NHS Board areas being used for data up to and including 2010/11. Argyll and Clyde Health Board was dissolved in April 2006 but for continuity, migration estimates up to and including 2010/11 are produced for Argyll and Clyde, and the pre-2006 Greater Glasgow and Highland NHS Board areas. A minor boundary change was made in February 2018 which affected Fife and Perth and Kinross (as well as the Fife Health Board and the Tayside Health Board). The change did not affect population or migration estimates. A further boundary change was made in April 2019 which affected Glasgow and North Lanarkshire (as well as Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and Lanarkshire Health Board). The boundary change resulted in people transferring from Glasgow to North Lanarkshire (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to NHS Lanarkshire); these moves have been accounted for as migration within Scotland.
Revisions statement	Revisions and corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group corporate policy statement on revisions and corrections - a copy of which is available on the Scottish Government website.
Concepts and definitions	Further information on the National Records of Scotland Migration Statistics can be found on the Methodology page within the migration section of the NRS website as well as in the Methodology Guide for our mid-year population estimates.
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	Migration is a key component of population change, so these estimates have a wide range of users including National and Local Government, health service providers, the third sector and commercial organisations.
Accuracy	Internal (i.e., within UK) migration estimates are based on General Practitioner (GP) registrations and are considered reasonably accurate for most groups. They may be less accurate for some groups such as young men, as they are less likely to register with a GP immediately on moving. Overseas migration was previously estimated using the IPS as the main source of data for measuring overseas migration at Scotland level. However, in March 2020 the

	IPS was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ONS led research into alternative data sources including using statistical modelling to estimate UK international migration over this period. NRS are working with the ONS, and other Government Statistical Service partners, as part of the transformation programme to improve international migration statistics. This should help address user demand for more evidence on the impacts of international migration, particularly at local level, as well as provide the best estimate of international migration to feed into Scotland's population statistics.
Completeness	Estimates are published for the total of all people moving from one area to another. Migration flows between NHS Board areas and broad geographical areas (within Scotland, rest of the UK and overseas) are split by sex. Migration flows between Scotland and broad geographical areas are split by age-group. Migration flows to all areas (total migration) for administrative areas are split by sex. Net migration to all areas for council areas is split by single year of age, averaged over a three year period.
Comparability	The internal and international migration estimates are comparable with those from the rest of the UK. The United Nations (UN) definition of an international migrant (someone that changes country of residence for 12 months or more) is used and so international migration estimates should be comparable with other countries.
Accessibility	It is the policy of the National Records of Scotland to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the Accessibility section of the NRS website.
Coherence and clarity	The statistics are provided in Excel and CSV formats. They are designed to be consistent, and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate.
Value type and unit of measure	Counts of people
Official Statistics designation	The migration estimates are produced as part of the overall mid-year population estimates which are designated as national statistics. There is a cross-GSS programme of work, being led by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), to transform migration statistics through greater use of administrative data. During this period of development, the international migration estimates have been classified as experimental statistics.

UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Assessed by UK Statistics Authority, the report can be found within the UK Statistics Authority – Assessments section on the National Records of Scotland website.
Help email	statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk
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